

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to a housing for hearing devices or hearing aids respectively with sound amplifying components arranged at the inside of the housing, at least one opening arranged at the outside and a removable cap for covering said opening.

Hearing devices or hearing aids respectively commonly consist of a closed housing or joined housing shells for its operations. As the devices are subject to a number of environmental influences during its operations, the housings, as well as multipart shells, have to be leak-proved sealed. The respective housings thus may only be opened with special tools and by respectively trained or skilled persons.

For direct interventions into the inside of the housing during operation or during short breaks of operation, without the need of opening the housing shell, closable openings will have to be provided within the housing shell. This may be the case if an electrical plug-in connection has to be established with an external unit.

Such openings are provided in known hearing devices, such as behind-the-ear hearing aids, with electronic amplifying techniques, and may be closed with covers pivotably arranged at the housing. Such covers are for instance attached by means of metallic axis or pins, that are arranged leading through the cap as well as through the housing. This provides a stable connection but needs a

great amount of space and is involved with relatively high production costs due to its multi-piece composition and use of different materials.

5 In another known embodiment a cap for closing the opening is insertable from the outside through an opening into the housing, whereby elastically hinge elements will snap into accordingly shaped recesses within the housing. The cap thus may be provided as a one-piece element but bears the risk that the cap may get loose or broken by inappropriate
10 handling.

In another known embodiment, the openings are covered or closed by a cap having a flexible hinge or consisting of flexible material, such as rubber. Such covers
15 disadvantageously have a self-closing effect due to its flexible and resilient characteristics of the hinge, thus closing the opening before the intended intervention through the opening has taken place.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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It is an object of the present invention to provide such a housing with a cap which may be produced without high costs and whereby the cap is secured against unintentional removing.

25 The present invention provides a housing for hearing devices or hearing aids respectively with sound amplifying components arranged at the inside of the housing, at least one opening arranged at the outside of the housing and a

removable cap for covering said opening, whereby the cap is a one-piece element with outwardly protruding pins and that grooves are provided at the housing in the region of the opening with outwardly acting dead stops such as said pins
5 are insertable into the grooves from the inside of the housing but are jammed in direction of the outside by said dead stops. The cap thus may not be directly pulled out from the housing to its front, thus reliably preventing an unintentional or independent loosening of the cap. However,
10 the insertion of the cap into the housing is as well possible and may be performed even from the outside of the housing. The cap therefore has to be inserted in its twisted position with the pins in front into the opening of the housing and following twisted such that the pins will
15 insert into the grooves at the inside of the housing. The cap may subsequently be pulled in outwardly direction into its pivotable position within the housing, as a rule against the dead stop of the grooves. In this position, the cap may close the opening or may be opened by pivoting
20 around the axis of the pins. The cap and the pins are made as a one-piece element and may therefore advantageously and cost-efficient be manufactured for instance in plastics commercially even in great numbers.

In one embodiment the cap in the area of the pins consists
25 of a rounded shape or of at least partially a cylindrical shape. Thus this area of the cap may be brought in contact against an accordingly shaped wall of the housing and be supported by this wall, thereby providing a great mechanical strength.

In one embodiment the pins are arranged in one axis at the cap, having circular cross sections. The axis is thereby building the pivoting axis of the cap in its inserted state. The pins therefore consist of a circular cross
5 section and are easily insertable into the grooves and relocatable to its end positions.

In another embodiment, at least one clip is resiliently arranged at the housing, the clip being at least partially in resilient contact with the cap in its inserted state and
10 forming a part of a pivotable hinge of the housing. The cap may snap into its end position due to the resilient clip and thus be fixed in this end position. The part of the cap being in contact with the clip at the same time constitutes a pivoting hinge together with the pins held by the
15 grooves. The cap thus is reliably pivoted supported and may not loosen unintentionally nor independently from its end position.

In a further embodiment, the clip is in contact with the cap in the area of the pins and/or is provided as part of
20 the housing. The housing may be manufactured as a one-piece element with a built-in clip, and therefore the clip is made out of the same material as the housing.

In another embodiment, the housing consists of at least two detachable housing shells. In a further embodiment, those
25 shells consist of plastics. This enables an easy and bargain production of the housing even for large numbers. The functional modules and elements may further easily be arranged and/or mounted in the inside of the housing due to the multi-part design of the housing.

The present invention further provides a hearing device or hearing aid with a housing according to the above described embodiments.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

For purpose of facilitating and understanding of the invention, there is illustrated in the accompanying
10 drawings a preferred embodiment thereof to be considered in connection with the following description. Thus the invention may be readily understood and appreciated.

Fig. 1 is a view of an inventively shaped hearing device with the cap in its opened state;

15 Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view from the inside of the opening area of the hearing device according figure 1 with the cap in its insertion position;

Fig. 3 is a longitudinal sectional view according figure 2 with the cap in its snapped in end-position in its
20 open state; and

Fig. 4 is a view of a partly sectional view according figures 2 and 3 with the cap in its partly opened state.

DESCRIPTION OF A PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

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Figure 1 shows the view of the housing of a behind-the-ear hearing device consisting of a back shell 1 and a front shell 2. Multiple openings directed to the outside are provided at the surface of the front shell 2, inter alia
5 the opening 3 for the external access from the outside onto electronic components arranged below the opening 3. For a better understanding, figure 1 only shows the back shell 1 and the front shell 2 respectively without any of the usually in the inside of the housing arranged electrical or
10 electronically sound amplifying components.

The opening 3 may be closed by the cap 4 pivotable arranged on the front shell 2. The cap 4 is shown here in its half opened state.

Figure 2 shows in more details the longitudinal sectional
15 view of the area of the opening 3. The cap 4 may be pulled from the inside to the outside of the front shell 2 through the opening 3. Two pins 5 are arranged at the underside 4' of the cap 4 protruding to the outside. These pins 5 may be inserted from the inside into the grooves 6 arranged at the
20 edge of the opening 3 in the wall of the front shell 2. Those grooves 6 are open towards the inside of the housing and runs preferably in form of a Z within the wall of the shell 2, as shown in figure 2.

The cap 4 may now be shifted along the grooves 6 to its
25 position shown in figure 3. The pins 5 of the cap 4 thereby reaching the dead stop 6' of the groove 6.

A resilient clip 7 is provided in this area of the front shell 2, which clip 7 comes into resilient contact against the underside 4' of the cap 4. If the underside 4' of the

cap 4 consists of a rounded shape, a snap-in connection will thus be provided between the cap 4 and the front shell 2. The underside 4' of the cap 4 consists advantageously of a cylindrical shape and the clip 7 consists of an
5 accordingly shaped recess, thus building a hinge for the cap 4, as may be seen in figure 4.

The cap 4 may not be pulled out to the outside of the front shell 2 as the pins 5 are held firm but pivotable in the grooves 6. After the opening of the housing by separating
10 both of the back shell 1 and the front shell 2, the cap 4 may easily be assembled or disassembled. The cap 4 consists preferably of a single piece and may thus be easy and cost efficient manufactured.

It is further possible to provide visually ascertainable
15 information on the inner side 4'' of the cap 4, such as labeling, engraving or etiquettes with information concerning the hearing device, e.g. in form of a bar code.